

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)



**PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY NOTICE**  
**ANNOUNCING THE RELEASE OF A**  
**COMPETITIVE GRANT SOLICITATION AND APPLICATION PACKAGE**  
**FOR**

**Improving Energy Efficiency in California's Food Processing and**  
**Dairy Processing Industry - Research, Development and**  
**Demonstration Grant**

**PUBLIC INTEREST ENERGY RESEARCH – INDUSTRIAL/AGRICULTURE/WATER**  
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM**

**Release Date: December 22, 2008**

**Proposal Due Date: February 10, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Purpose:**

This is a competitive grant solicitation sponsored by the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER). The State of California has identified energy efficiency as a major strategy to reduce the state's energy use. Industrial energy users consume a large portion of California's energy, and can make a major contribution to the reduction of electricity and natural gas use by adopting new energy efficient technologies. This competitive grant solicitation by the California Energy Commission through its Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program is soliciting technologies and/or scientific advances that will significantly reduce energy and water use in California's food and dairy processing industries. This solicitation seeks new technologies, improvement in current technologies, fuel substitution or process optimization. Outcomes of research projects will be shared and serve as a model for food and dairy processors to adapt to their own specific situations to improve production efficiencies and thereby enhance competitiveness of industry in California.

**Eligible Projects:**

Proposals should reflect a comprehensive understanding of the current state of technologies in the food processing or dairy processing industries in California. The projects must propose RD&D activities that are not adequately covered by the competitive market. Successful proposals should clearly indicate which of the two industries, food processing or dairy industry, is being targeted. The eligible projects under food processing and dairy include but are not limited to, vegetable and fruit

processing; production of milk and processing of milk into cheese, whey, powder etc; wineries, breweries and soft drink production; meat & poultry processing; and bakeries. Besides energy efficiency, proposals that reduce the use of water or wastewater leading to direct energy savings at the user site are also eligible. Within the food processing and dairy industry projects that clearly and directly reduce greenhouse gases in addition to improving energy efficiency are encouraged to apply. Proposals must provide a market connection for the proposed technology and a potential benefit to electricity and/or natural gas ratepayers in California.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

This is an open solicitation seeking proposals from public, private and individual entities actively involved in electricity and natural gas efficiency research, development and demonstration. To be eligible, Applicants must present a team with demonstrated capabilities in successful completion of research, technology development and demonstration projects.

Participation in this program is open to U.S.-based individuals, private industry, non-profit organizations, industry associations, academic institutions, and state and federal agencies. A partial listing of eligible proposers follows:

- **Individuals:** Must be acting independently. If employed or affiliated with an organization, applicant must have authorization from the organization to pursue project development exclusively as an individual with no rights reserved to the organization. NOTE: Proposers who are employed by a college/university or affiliated laboratory are **not** eligible to apply as individuals; submission for such employees **must** be made through the proposer's home institution.
- **For-profit companies**
- **Non-profit organizations**
- **Industry associations**
- **Academic institutions: Public or private post-secondary institutions.**
- **State and Federal organizations:** State and Federal agencies, federal laboratories or other Federally Funded Research and Development Centers that are not otherwise prohibited from directly responding to a public solicitation.

Institutions may submit more than one proposal, but only one proposal per Principal Investigator is allowed. If two or more proposals are submitted by the same PI, the Program Administrator will reject all proposals from this PI and will return the proposal(s) to the applicant.

Pursuant to AB 2267 (Fuentes, 2008), the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program must give a priority to "California-based

entities” (CBEs) when making awards. To implement this AB 2267, the Energy Commission will award preference points if the proposal meets the criteria for a CBE as described in the Application Manual and its attachments.

California business entities as well as non-California business entities conducting intrastate business in California are required to register and be in good standing with the California Secretary of State to enter into a funding agreement with the Energy Commission. If not currently registered with the California Secretary of State, Applicants are encouraged to contact the Secretary of State’s Office as soon as possible to avoid potential delays in beginning the project if successful under this solicitation. For more information, contact the California Secretary of State via their website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov).

### **Funding Information:**

Approximately \$2 million of FY 2007/08 PIER Electricity funding is available under this solicitation for grant awards. A maximum of \$400,000 is available for each approved proposal. In case of a high number of exceptional, desirable projects, the program may release additional funds upon approval from the PIER Program Management. At least 25% of the grant request must be provided by the proposer as match funding either in cash or in-kind.

The program is expected to award approximately \$2,000,000 between six to eight individual projects with project costs up to \$400,000. The research projects are expected to last up to 24 months from the agreement start date, including 3 months for final technical report review and acceptance. The earliest start date for projects is anticipated to be August 1, 2009.

### **Cost-Sharing**

Cost-sharing is required and is a consideration in the evaluation process. Match funding of 25%, either in cash or in-kind, of the requested PIER funding is required. Proposals with higher match funding are desirable and will be scored higher.

A letter of intent/interest from all co-sponsors must be included in the Appendices of the proposal.

Staff time, laboratory space, equipment, and most property can count as match funds if they are dedicated to the project for the time the property or equipment is required by the agreement, and if the value of the contribution is based on documented market values or book values and is depreciated or amortized over the term of the project using generally accepted accounting practices.

Property and equipment that does not qualify as match funds include such items as standard office supplies and property or equipment that is part of the applicant’s normal business activity (desks, typewriters, telephones, computers, software, etc.).

In all cases, the Energy Commission reserves the right to review and approve or disapprove the crediting of contributions and the amounts of those contributions as match funding.

Prior investments in the project do not qualify as match funds. Funding from other Energy Commission projects does not qualify as match funding. The sources and amounts of match funding must be identified in the applicant's budget.

Proposed match funding must be spent concurrently with PIER Program funds, and only on the project elements described in the proposal. Match funds can be spent once the Commission has approved an Award at a scheduled Business Meeting. However, PIER funds cannot be spent until the agreement with Energy Commission is fully executed.

**Schedule of Proposal and Award Process:**

Release of Program Opportunity Notice	December 22, 2008
Proposal Workshop ( via in person participation, teleconference, WebEx)	January 9, 2009 10 a.m.
Deadline to Submit Questions	January 15, 2009
Questions and Answers Posted on Website	February 3, 2009
<b>Deadline to Submit Proposals No later than 4PM</b>	February 10, 2009 4:00 p.m.
Interview Applicants (if Necessary)	March 2-6, 2009
Post Notice of Proposed Awards	<i>Estimated</i> April 15, 2009
Approval of Awards at Energy Commission Business Meeting	<i>Estimated</i> June 2009

**Availability of Solicitation Documents and Information:**

This solicitation and all supporting documents and forms can be found at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html> under "Current Solicitations." Interested parties may also register on the electronic mailing list on this webpage to receive notifications of any changes to this solicitation.

The copies of solicitation documents and information can be obtained by contacting:

Grants and Loans Office  
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